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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/652,359	08/29/2003	David W. Grunow	16356.821 (DC-05237)	1316

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EXAMINER

PAPE, ZACHARY

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2835

DATE MAILED: 11/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/652,359

Applicant(s)

GRUNOW ET AL.

Examiner

Zachary M. Pape

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 August 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 September 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

The following detailed action is in response to the pre-brief conference request filed 8/11/2006.

1. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office Action (Via the pre-brief filed 8/11/2006) is persuasive (Specifically the Applicant's arguments regarding the duplicate latches and the functioning thereof) and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn. A new grounds of rejection in view of Won et al. and Frame is detailed below.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 1, 3, 6-7 9, 11, 13-14, 18-19, 21 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claims 1, 18, 19, 21 recite, "and portable device" which lacks antecedent basis.

Claims 4, 6-7, 11, 13, 14, 19 recite, "and movable front latches" which lacks antecedent basis.

Claims 3, 7, 9 14 recites, "the vertical force" which lacks antecedent basis.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

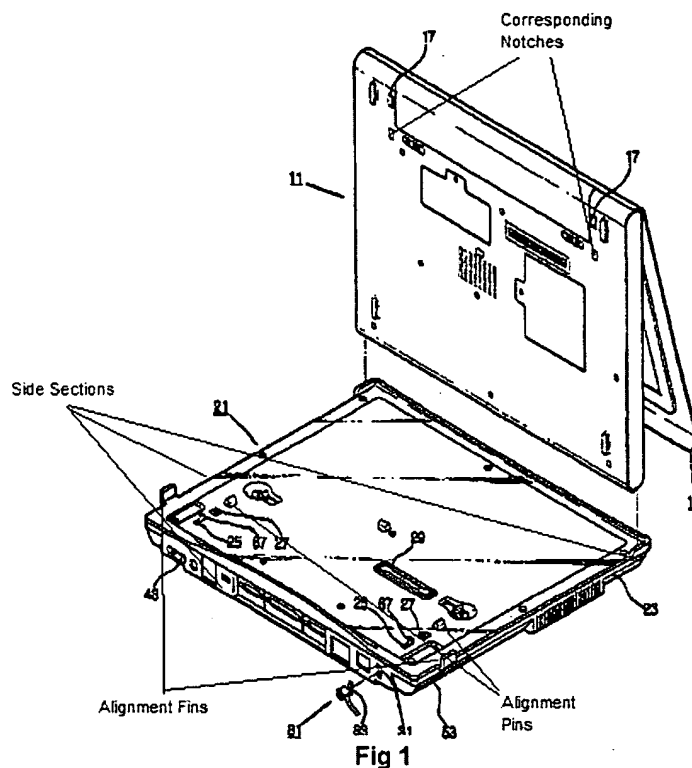
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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Won et al. (US 6,744,627) in view of Frame (US 6,982,702).

With respect to claim 10, Won et al. teaches a docking system operable to detachably dock a portable device, the system comprising: a pair of moveable rear latches (67) operable to resiliently spread open (See Column 4, Lines 63-67, see also Column 5, Lines 28-33), matching slots (17), a pair of alignment pins (See present office action Fig 1 below) wherein the pair of alignment pins are operable to mate with corresponding notches on the portable device when the portable device is docked, and a plurality of side sections on the docking device (23 as illustrated in Fig 1), at least one of the side sections including an alignment fin (As illustrated in present office action Fig 1 below). Won et al. is silent as to the docking station further comprising movable front latches operable to resiliently spread apart in an opposite direction from the movable rear latches when a substantially vertical force is applied to the portable device, and matching front slots. Frame teaches the conventionality of a docking station (14) which further comprises movable front and rear latches (34) operable to resiliently spread apart in an opposite direction when a substantially vertical force is applied to the portable device (See Fig 1 which shows openings behind the hooks to allow them to move inward), and matching slots (35, See Figs 1-2, see also Column 5, Lines 21-25). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention

was made to combine the teachings of Frame with that of Won et al. to provide further connectivity between the docking station and the computer (Column 1, Lines 54-58).



With respect to claim 11, Won et al. further teaches a substantially planar bottom section (surrounding 29), wherein the pair of moveable rear latches (17) and moveable front latches (Of Frame as applied to Won) are affixed to the bottom section (As illustrated in Won Fig 1, see also Frame Fig 1), wherein the pair of moveable rear latches and moveable front latches are aligned substantially perpendicular to the bottom section (As illustrated in Won, Frame Fig 1), a substantially planar top section (surrounding 17) being operative to receive a bottom section of the portable device for docking, wherein the top section includes openings (25) for the pair of moveable rear

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latches and moveable front latches to permit latching on to corresponding matching slots of the portable device when docked, wherein the docking causes the pair of alignment pins included in the top section to mate with the corresponding notches (See present office action Fig 1 above), wherein at least one of the side sections includes a release latch (53 of Won, 36 of Frame) operable to undock the portable device.

With respect to claim 12, Won et al. further teaches that the top section includes at least one electrical connector for electrically coupling the portable device to the docking device when docked (Column 3, Lines 48-52).

With respect to claim 13, Won et al. further teaches that applying a vertical force on the portable device causes the pair of moveable rear latches (67) and moveable front latches (Of Frame) to be slightly moved in an outwardly or inwardly direction. (Hole 25 allows for the latch (67) to move outward when a vertical force from the computer comes in contact with them as indicated by the slight angle (Best illustrated in Fig 4a) on the hook member of 67. See also Fig 1, and Column 5, Lines 21-25 of Frame).

With respect to claim 14, Won et al. further teaches that the slight movement of the pair of the moveable rear latches and moveable front latches enables the corresponding matching slots to latch in response to the vertical force. (See, Frame Column 5, Lines 19-40 which teaches spring barbs which snap into place upon connection of the docking station to the computer).

With respect to claim 15, Won et al. in view of Frame teaches that the hook member (67) is displaced as described in claim 13 above, but is silent as to a specific

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value (angle). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to displace the hook member (67) by 20 degrees since it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Boesch*, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980).

Displacing the hook member by only 20 degrees will allow for the hook to displace enough to allow it to latch to the mating piece, but will not damage the hook structure (I.E. displacing the hook too much could damage the hook).

With respect to claim 16, Frame further teaches that the pair of moveable rear latches and the moveable front latches include a spring mechanism capable of providing a lateral force to latch the portable device in response to the vertical force (Column 5, Lines 21-25), wherein the spring mechanism is in a loaded position while the portable device is being docked and in an unloaded position when the portable device is docked (Column 5, Lines 19-40, wherein pressing the release button causes the hook to move from the unloaded position to the loaded position to release the computer).

With respect to claim 17, Won et al. further teaches that the docking system substantially resembles a rectangular prism.

With respect to claim 18, Won et al. teaches the use of an information handling system (11) comprising: a portable device (11), wherein the portable device includes: a processor, a system bus, a memory coupled to the processor through the system bus, (all such components are inherent in a computer as described by Won et al.) and a docking device (21) having at least one peripheral device (Column 1, Lines 28-31, Column 5, Lines 61-67), wherein the docking device is operable to detachably dock the

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portable device (via hooks 67), wherein the docking device includes: a pair each of moveable rear latches (67), wherein the pair of moveable rear latches are operable to resiliently latch on to corresponding matching slots (17, See Column 4, Lines 63-67, see also Column 5, Lines 28-34) of the portable device in response to an application of a substantially vertical force on the portable device for docking, a plurality of side sections on the docking device (As illustrate in the present office action Fig 1 above), at least one of the side sections including an alignment fin (Present office action Fig 1 above); a pair of alignment pins (See present office action Fig 1 above), wherein the pair of alignment pins are operable to mate with corresponding notches (See present office action Fig 1 above) on the portable device when the portable device is docked, and a connector (29) to electrically couple the processor and the at least one peripheral device when the portable device is docked (Column 3, Lines 49-52).

Won et al. is silent as to the use of resilient moveable front latches and matching slots on the portable device which resiliently spread apart in an opposite direction to the rear latches. Frame teaches the conventionality of a docking station (14) which further comprises movable front and rear latches (34) operable to resiliently spread apart in an opposite direction when a substantially vertical force is applied to the portable device (See Fig 1 which shows openings behind the hooks to allow them to move inward), and matching front slots (35, See Figs 1-2, see also Column 5, Lines 21-25). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Frame with that of Won et al. to provide further connectivity between the docking station and the computer (Column 1, Lines 54-58).

With respect to claim 19, Frame further teaches that applying a vertical force causes the pair of moveable rear latches and moveable front latches (34) to be slightly moved in an outwardly or inwardly direction (See Figs 1, 2, see also Column 5, Lines 19-40 of Frame).

With respect to claim 20, Frame further teaches that the pair of moveable rear latches and the moveable front latches include a spring mechanism capable of providing a lateral force to latch the portable device in response to the vertical force (Column 5, Lines 21-25), wherein the spring mechanism is in a loaded position while the portable device is being docked and in an unloaded position when the portable device is docked (Column 5, Lines 19-40, wherein pressing the release button causes the hook to move from the unloaded position to the loaded position to release the computer).

With respect to claim 21 won et al. teaches the use of an information handling system comprising: a portable device (11), wherein the portable device includes: a chassis, a microprocessor mounted in the chassis, a storage device coupled to the microprocessor (inherently a computer must contain a chassis, a microprocessor, and a storage device), and a docking device (21) having at least one peripheral device (Column 1, Lines 28-31, Column 5, Lines 61-67), wherein the docking device is operable to detachably dock the portable device (via hooks 67), wherein the docking device includes: a pair each of moveable rear latches (67), wherein the pair of moveable rear latches are operable to resiliently latch on to corresponding matching slots (17, See Column 4, Lines 63-67, see also Column 5, Lines 28-34) of the portable device in response to an application of a substantially vertical force on the portable

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device for docking, a plurality of side sections (See present office action Fig 1 above) on the docking device, at least one of the side sections including an alignment fin (See present office action Fig 1 above) a pair of alignment pins (See present office action Fig 1 above), wherein the pair of alignment pins are operable to mate with corresponding notches (See present office action Fig 1 above) on the portable device when the portable device is docked, and a connector (29) to electrically couple the processor and the at least one peripheral device when the portable device is docked (Column 3, Lines 49-52). Won et al. is silent as to the use of resilient moveable front latches and matching slots on the portable device which resiliently spread apart in an opposite direction to the rear latches when a substantially vertical force is applied to the portable device, Frame teaches the conventionality of a docking station (14) which further comprises movable front and rear latches (34) operable to resiliently spread apart in an opposite direction when a substantially vertical force is applied to the portable device (See Fig 1 which shows openings behind the hooks to allow them to move inward), and matching front slots (35, See Figs 1-2, see also Column 5, Lines 21-25). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Frame with that of Won et al. to provide further connectivity between the docking station and the computer (Column 1, Lines 54-58).

With respect to claims 1-9, the method steps recited in the claims are inherently necessitated by the device structure as taught by the Won et al. and Frame references as disclosed above.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed in the pre-appeal brief dated 8/11/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

With respect to the Applicant's remarks on page 2 that, "Won does not teach, or even suggest, applying a substantially vertical force on the portable device to cause the docking" the Examiner respectfully disagrees. The computer (11) of Won is vertically positioned and then placed atop the docking station (21) and therefore a substantially vertical force is applied to cause the docking.

With respect to the remarks on page 2 regarding the resilient rear latches, as per the above rejection the Examiner has combined the Won reference with that of Frame to teach the rear latches and the docking method thereof.

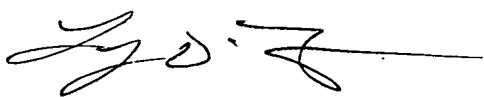
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Zachary M. Pape whose telephone number is 571-272-2201. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Thur. & every other Fri. (8:00am - 5:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Feild can be reached at 571-272-2092. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

ZMP


LYNN FEILD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER